

## Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 SP-02 DODE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 NEA-09 /071 R

DRAFTED BY OES/SCI/AE:DHOYLE:MER

APPROVED BY OES/SCI/AE:DHOYLE

ERDA - MR. SLAWSON (DRAFT)

ACDA - MR. CRUMP (DRAFT)

IO/SCT - MR. CAVANAUGH (DRAFT)

NEA/IRN - MR. MORTON (DRAFT)

PN/NPO - MR. OPLINGER (DRAFT)

S/P - MR. KAHAN (DRAFT)

----- 130017

R 262050Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 068589

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH IAEA US IR

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES STORY RE U.S.-IRAN NUCLEAR  
COOPERATION

REF: A. IAEA 2389; B. STATE 052684

1. OUR REVIEW INDICATES THAT GELB ARTICLE TO WHICH  
HALL APPARENTLY REFERRED APPEARED IN US EDITIONS OF NEW  
YORK TIMES ON MARCH 9.

2. MUCH OF ARTICLE OBVIOUSLY BASED ON DEPARTMENT SPOKES-  
MAN'S PRESS BRIEFING OF MARCH 7 DURING WHICH GELB POSED  
A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ON THIS MATTER. REPORTING CABLE  
THIS BRIEFING (REFTEL B) WILL BE REPEATED TO MISSION. AS  
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YOU WILL NOTE FROM REFTEL B, DISCUSSION WITH PRESS BE-

CAME QUITE DISJOINTED, WHICH COULD HAVE LEAD TO SOME CONFUSION. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE THAT ANYTHING IN SPOKESMAN'S ANSWERS OR STATEMENT SUBSEQUENTLY FURNISHED COULD BE CONSTRUED AS CASTING DOUBTS ON ADEQUACY OF INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS. FURTHER, WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY OTHER STATEMENT WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN MADE BY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL WHICH COULD BE SO CONSTRUED.

3. THERE IS CERTAINLY NO INTENT ON PART OF USG TO INDICATE LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN IAEA SAFEGUARDS THROUGH OUR DESIRE TO RETAIN RIGHT OF APPROVAL ON REPROCESSING FACILITIES. HOWEVER, WE ARE CONCERNED OVER (A) PROLIFERATION OF SMALL, ECONOMICALLY UNJUSTIFIED REPROCESSING PLANTS AND (B) ACCUMULATIONS OF WEAPONS-USABLE PLUTONIUM IN SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES FOR WHICH THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE CIVIL USE. ALTHOUGH THESE CONCERNS WOULD BE LESSENERED UNDER CONDITIONS WHERE IAEA SAFEGUARDS EXISTED, THEY OBVIOUSLY WOULD NOT DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY, PARTICULARLY WHEN THESE CONDITIONS OCCUR IN POLITICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS OF THE WORLD. WE HAVE, IN FACT, INDICATED TO IRAN AND OTHERS THAT ADHERENCE TO NPT (AND, HENCE, APPLICATION OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS TO ANY REPROCESSING FACILITY AS WELL AS TO ALL OTHER PARTS OF THE FUEL CYCLE) WOULD BE FAVORABLE FACTOR IN USG CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE FUTURE REQUESTS FOR INDIGENOUS PROCESSING CAPABILITY. KISSINGER

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